

III. Remarks

A. Amendments to the Claims

Claim 76 has been amended to incorporate the limitations set forth in claims 77 and 78. Accordingly, claim 76 now becomes claim 78 rewritten in independent form. As the limitations set forth in claims 77 and 78 are now incorporated in claim 76, claims 77 and 78 are canceled. Claims 79–81 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 76.

B. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Claims 76–77, 88–90 and 92–94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,211,129 to Gladfelter et al.
2. Claims 87 and 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gladfelter et al. as applied to the above claims, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,914,309 to Ulbl et al.

Neither of the rejections applies to claim 78. Indeed, under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter," the Examiner has indicated that claims 78–81 and 95 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (Examiner's Action, page 4, lines 6–9). As claim 76 is claim 78 rewritten in independent form, claim 76 should now be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims 79–81 and 87–95 are dependent upon claim 76. Accordingly, claims 79–81 and 86–95 should also be in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed that the above Amendment and Remarks constitute a complete Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and that all grounds for objection stated in the Action have been adequately rebutted or overcome. A Notice of Allowance in the next Action is therefore requested. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel if any matter that can be expected to be resolved in a telephone interview is believed to impede the allowance of the pending claims of Application Serial No. 10/765,751.

Respectfully submitted,

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